

Arizona Forest Health Council
Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body
Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE –
Arizona Forest Health Council

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Arizona Forest Health Council and to the general public that the **Arizona Forest Health Council** will hold a meeting open to the public:

Arizona Association of Counties Board Room
Thursday, February 13, 2014
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tele Conference Number: 1-877-820-7831
Passcode: 219418#

Minutes

1. Call to Order – 9:00 am Chair, Scott Hunt

Members Present:

Chair Scott Hunt, Don Berry, Linda Linn for Neil Bosworth, Wally Covington, Robert Davis, Nicole Farr, Steve Gatewood, Bruce Hallin, Kevin Kinsall, Mayor Jerry Nabours and Co-Chair Sue Sitko

Members via Tel-Conference:

Kent Bushman, Supervisor Tommie Martin, and Steve Rosenstock

Members Absent (excused):

Pascal Berlioux and Darrell Willis

Public:

Jerry Payne, Deputy State Forester, Diane Vosick, ERI NAU, Ann Walker, Western Governors Association, Rich Homann, Council of Western State Foresters and Colorado State Forest Service and Ben Fisk, Flagstaff Fire Department

Chair Scott Hunt welcomed the Forest Health Council members and guests in attendance.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the November FHC Meeting ~

- Steve Gatewood moved for approval as amended; Sue Sitko second.
- Minutes were approved.

3. State Update ~ Scott Hunt

- Scott discussed HB2106 Wildland Urban Interface Study Committee and stated that he may ask for the Council member's assistance on this committee.
- Scott also reviewed the State Forestry Legislation Summary Report which includes the Division related bills. There are several fireworks bill we are watching. HB2578 will allow municipalities with wildland urban interface by ordinance will be able to notify a party to remove vegetation that constitutes a wildfire hazard.
- **Federal Legislation** – Scott reviewed the National Association of State Foresters 2014 Farm Bill Crosswalk with the Council members. Most programs were continued on or authorized. Review of the changes on the Farm Bill and their effect on State Forestry still needs to be determined. Steve Gatewood stated that we need to look closely at the WBI grants to see if any of them meet the 3,000 acre project size stated in the Farm Bill. The Farm Bill includes expansion of the Good Neighbor Authority. US Congress S 1875 - Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2013 and H.R.3992 -- Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2014, introduced last week. Ann Walker stated that the WGA will be doing a letter of support for these bills.
- **Weather/Fire Preliminary Outlook** – Weather handouts show the fire potential outlook not looking good. Chuck Maxwell at the National Weather Service is indicating the possibility of a wetter April and May and some models are pointing to that.

4. Guard Rail Testing ~ Jerry Payne

- Jerry stated that testing took place with eight inch diameter logs with limited knots; 64 inch posts with 35 inches in ground. A complete 192 page report explains the test findings. We now have the science to go with the material to work with ADOT to use these posts. They still need to test 72 inch posts. Phase 1 is complete; phase 2 will include exploring with surrounding states the use of the posts. The complete report will be posted on the website.

5. **Statewide Continuing Activity Update**

- **4 FRI** ~ Diane Vosik stated that they had a good visit to Washington DC in early January. They took three issues to the delegation. Representatives from the Campbell Group were also in attendance. Eastside projects were discussed. The EIS Final is scheduled to be out at the end of spring or early summer.
- Rob Davis stated they informed the delegation that the Eastside will not do well after the White Mountain Stewardship project is complete. FRI does not have adequate funding and cannot implement the acreage without funding. The counties are spearheading on specific data for the eastside. It is requested that numbers be brought back to the March meeting. We are trying to work with the Forest Service to get the numbers exact.
- Diane stated that the stakeholder group will be notified for the potential of the EIS. At the February 4FRI meeting, planning will take place in case the document is challenged. Proposed is due out in May and the record of decision in July. Jerry inquired about dealing with the objection period. Diane stated that we have past documents with comments to refer to. A civil action can be filed. Rob stated that we will need to be prepared on a lot of different possibilities.
- Mayor Nabours stated that the Campbell Group is ready to begin work on 4FRI. The Mayor along with other city delegations will be going back to Washington DC. Let them know if they need to speak with someone regarding the project.
- **Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project** ~ Ben Fisk represented Pal Summerfelt to give an update on the watershed project. A \$10 million dollar bond project was approved by the voters and an additional \$900,000 funding was received. A lot of public outreach has been completed. Two handouts were distributed to the Council – 2013 Benchmarks Completed and 2014 Benchmarks Goals. Major components will begin in 2014. Major scope of the work begins in fall of 2014 in and around Flagstaff. Monitoring program is currently in effect. The draft EIS is due out the end of March.

6. **Western Governors' Association (WGA) Update** ~ Ann Walker

- Ann Walker, consultant for the WGA, reported on the priority projects for WGA. She distributed a briefing memo on Rangeland Fire Protection Association. Rangeland Fire Protection is currently in Oregon and Idaho. This association is comprised primarily of ranchers.
- Regional effort currently is on air tankers and detection aircraft. Ann also distributed a handout, *Western Regional and National Emphasis Priority Summary Table* along with the *Priority A Regional Actions*.

7. **National Cohesive Strategy & Colorado's COWRAP** ~ Rich Homann

- Rich Homann from Colorado State Forest Service and also representing the Council of Western State Foresters did a presentation on the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. Rich distributed a brochure entitled: *Western Cohesive Wildland Strategy*. A copy of his power point will be made available.
- The Cohesive Strategy has three challenges: landscapes, Communities at Risk; and responding safely to wildfires. Phase 1 and Phase 2 are completed. Phase 3 is nearing completion and needs to go to Department of Agriculture and Department of Interior and then to Congress.
- Completion of the National Implementation is expected in March 2014. The next step will be the communication process. Challenges seen are 1) implementing the plan; 2) measuring the progress; 3) taking ownership; and 4) moving forward.
- More information on the National Fire Plan can be found at www.forestsandrangelands.gov
- How will the plan affect state and local agencies? Will it be a guideline? Ann Walker recommended that everyone review and comment on the plan.

- Cohesive Strategy Success Stories – 4FRI Project and Flagstaff Watershed Project. We need to remind those applying for grants to include cohesive strategy and western risk assessment in their grant proposals.
- Diane Vosik stated that there should be some forward thinking with Region 3. We need a better communication vehicle. Address the work SRP, City of Flagstaff, 4FRI, rebirth of the industry, Forest Health Council, and climate change. Revamp the communication for 4FRI. Create a book of Arizona success stories. Bruce Hallin stated that SRP could possibly fund a brochure for us.
- A Communications Subcommittee was developed. Members will include, Bruce Hallin, Diane Vosik, Sue Sitko, Nicole Farr and Steve Gatewood. Ann Walker stated she would assist on the committee.
- HB 2106 ~ Establishing a Wildland Urban Interface Study Committee – The Forest Health Council may be integral to completing the report requested by the bill. State Forester has provided the bios and an offer of work by the FHC to the sponsor. Much of the material has already been produced by the FHC.

8. Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (CO-WRAP) ~ Rich Homann

- Rich distributed a brochure on the CO-WRAP. This is a web-based mapping tool that provides access to statewide wildfire risk assessment information. A power point presentation on the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment was given. A copy of the presentation will be provided. Covered in the presentation was the purpose and scope of the risk assessment; data to use; the assessment portal; the objectives of CO-WRAP; CO-WRAP tool attributes; deliverables and how to navigate through CO-WRAP. A demonstration of CO-WRAP was provided to the group.
- www.ColoradoWildfireRisk.com
- Scott is looking at doing a similar pilot in Arizona using Yavapai County.

9. Investment Strategy Workshop – Bruce Hallin

- SRP has scheduled May 1, 2014 for a Second Annual Forest Summit. A Save the Date email is being sent out. More information will follow.

10. Call to the Public

- None

11. Meeting Schedule and Locations

- The next meeting will be March 13, 2014 in Phoenix at the Arizona Association of Counties Board Room (if available) beginning at 10:00 am.

Linda Linn made a motion to adjourn. Bruce Hallin seconded motion. Meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as results of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further considerations and decisions at a later date.

*Dated this March 3, 2014
Arizona Forest Health Council
<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>*